

**Legislative Testimony
Appropriations Committee
Governor's Proposed FY 23 Budget Adjustments
HB 5037 An Act Adjusting the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30,
2023
February 23, 2022**

Dear Senator Osten, Representative Walker and Members of the CGA
Appropriations Committee,

I am Allen Hindin, a general dentist, practicing in Danbury, CT, 1974-2021, including design and participation within The Model School Health Program, Hartford, 1975-1981, Grant Project Manager and Director of Danbury Hospital Dental Service and General Practice Dental Residency Program, 1979-1996, followed by 25 years in private practice and Director of Dental Services for Hudson Valley Cerebral Palsy Association, in Brewster, NY.

I have had significant experience in providing dental care for Connecticut Title XIX beneficiaries, both children and adults.

While access to dental care has greatly improved for poor children of CT, much due to Medicaid reimbursement rates, which have encouraged significant participation by dentists, adults have lagged far behind. This is due to a variety of factors, asymmetric reimbursement rates being foremost. Not only have they remained unchanged for almost a decade and a half, they were grossly inadequate even then.

As a result, dentists often paid for the privilege of providing services to Title XIX covered adult patients. Despite the burden, many of us provided care, at times even without submitting for payment, due to low rates.

Since the last rate increase, costs associated with practicing dentistry in CT have greatly increased, for reasons I need not enumerate.

Oral health has long been recognized as important for overall well being, its absence associated with wasted, expensive use of emergency rooms, a co-factor in diabetes and other diseases, employability and socialization.

It is important that adult dental Medicaid reimbursement rates reflect contemporary practice and the benefits to be had from proper oral health.

I urge support for the Governor Lamont's Proposed FY 23 Budget Adjustments for the Department of Social Services and the increase proposed to adult dental Medicaid rates.

Respectfully,

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